

P.S.C. CAN PROTECT GAS USERS, SAYS CORNWELL

CASEY COMPANY GETS CONTRACT FOR BIG BRIDGE

Will Get Nine Per Cent Over the Cost of the Structure.

NOT MORE THAN \$40,000

Work on Structure Will Begin Early Next Spring.

The John F. Casey Contracting Company of Pittsburgh, the same company that is constructing the bridge across the Coal run ravine, will construct the handsome new concrete-steel structure that will span the Monongahela river. The contract was let yesterday afternoon at 4 o'clock at an executive session of the Board of Affairs, following the closing of the bids at 1:30 o'clock.

Ottomar Lange and John F. Casey, owners of the company, both of whom attended the meeting yesterday afternoon proposed to construct the bridge for nine percent, of the cost, their compensation not to exceed \$40,000.

The proposition offered by the four different contracting companies were considered at an executive session which convened at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon, all of the bidders being absent. It took but one hour for the Board of Affairs to award the contract to the Casey Company, a motion offered to this effect and passed unanimously.

Within the next few days the contractors, represented by John F. Casey, will meet with the proper city authorities and the formal contract drawn up and signed.

The plans and specifications state that work on the bridge must begin within ten days after the contract is let, unless time for beginning is extended by the Board of Affairs. It is the plan to do little on the bridge until next spring at which time the work will start in full force.

After four o'clock yesterday afternoon, Engineer E. H. Harder, of the New York Concrete Steel Engineering Company, arrived in the city with a architectural drawing of the new bridge. The drawing, which is a most handsome one, was tacked up in the office of the Board of Affairs yesterday evening, but this morning was taken down. The drawing is not yet complete, but when finished will be placed in one of the store windows of the city for public inspection.

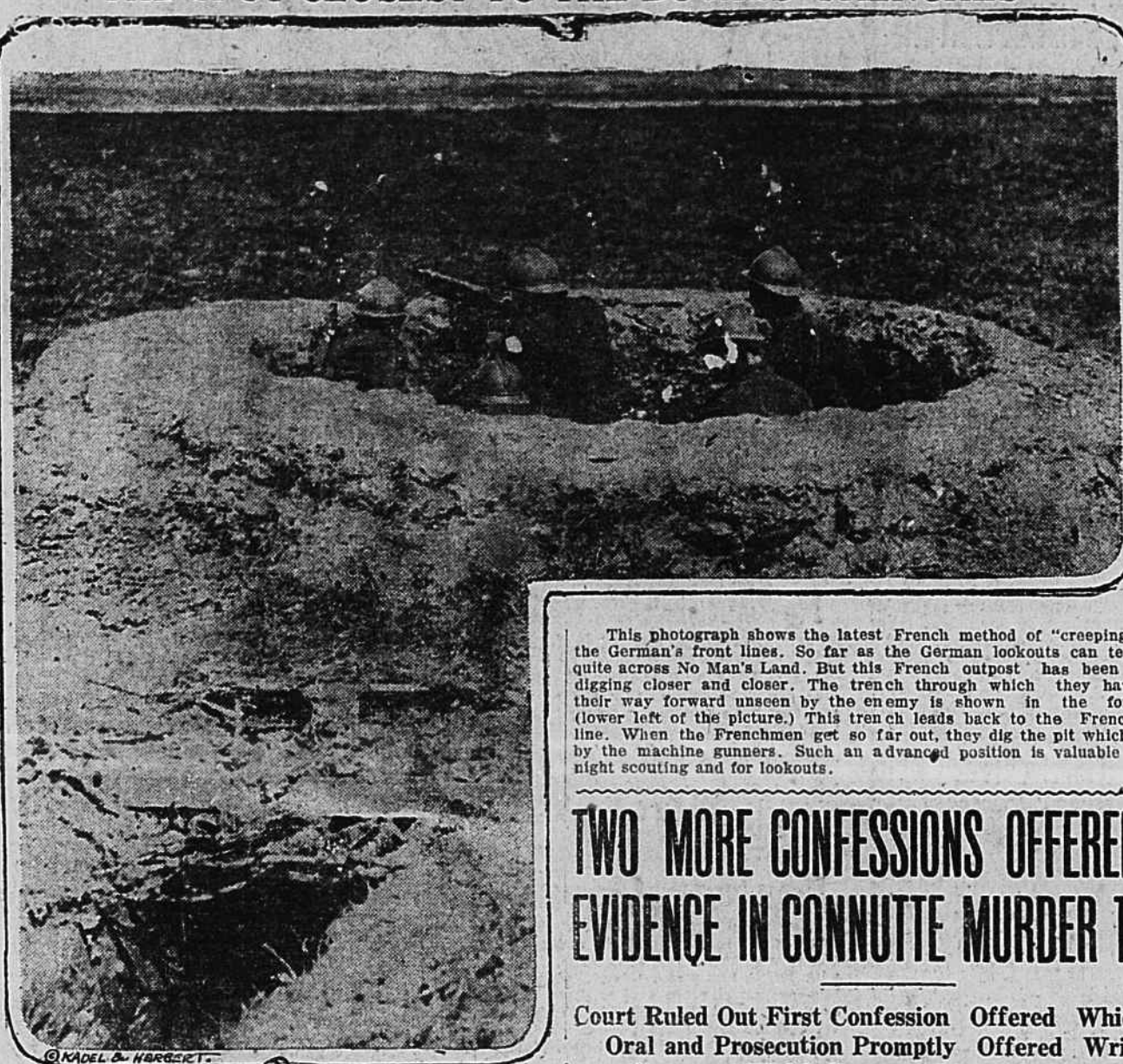
Will Stop Traffic Across Coal Run

At a meeting yesterday evening of the Board of Affairs, Designing Engineer William Meusser and E. H. Harder of the New York Concrete Steel Engineering Company, City Engineer S. B. Miller, John F. Casey, Ottomar Stange, E. J. Glass, of the John F. Casey Company, and General Manager E. B. Moore and Chief Engineer D. H. Blanks of the Monongahela Valley Traction company it was thought best to close the South Side bridge during the constructional work which will last from two to three months next spring. It was suggested several weeks ago that the contractors draw up some plan whereby the bridge could be used while the construction was going on, even though it would cost the city a few more dollars. It was the general opinion of the engineers at the meeting yesterday that the additional cost would not be profitable nor practical. Later a footbridge will be designed even though it would cost the city a few more dollars. Trolley cars will go by way of Locust avenue.

9 more days to buy a Christmas Present for Baby



THE SPOT CLOSEST TO THE BOCHES' TRENCHES



This photograph shows the latest French method of "creeping up on" the German's front lines. So far as the German lookouts can tell, all is quite across No Man's Land. But this French outpost has been quietly digging closer and closer. The trench through which they have made their way forward unseen by the enemy is shown in the foreground (lower left of the picture.) This trench leads back to the French front line. When the Frenchmen get so far out, they dig the pit which is used by the machine gunners. Such an advanced position is valuable also in night scouting and for lookouts.

TWO MORE CONFESSIONS OFFERED AS EVIDENCE IN CONNUTTE MURDER TRIAL

Court Ruled Out First Confession Offered Which Was Oral and Prosecution Promptly Offered Written Statement Which Connutte Dictated, Corrected and Signed.

Exclusion of the oral confession in the Walter Connutte murder trial was the most important development so far, but on the heels of that today the State endeavored to introduce the subsequent confessions of Connutte. There has been a flow of legal citations ever since the discussion on the "alleged confessions" started in which every turn and twist in the case is treated. Major Neely is striking hard and is apparently trying to dynamite the State's case against the co-defendant, Attorney Meredith for Connutte, and Prosecution Attorney Walter R. Haggerty and Assistant Prosecution Attorney Charles E. Miller are also submitting plenty of legal points. It is probable that the court will rule on the subsequent confession this afternoon.

Argument as to the two "alleged confessions" made on Tuesday, September 18—three days after the crime—was introduced this morning in Circuit court before Judge Haymond. Assistant Prosecution Attorney Charles E. Miller was called to the stand for cross examination. He testified that Connutte had read over the confessions and after having made several corrections had them read to him by Mr. Miller. Connutte, Mr. Miller testified, made several corrections. After these were corrected the confessions were read to Connutte and he signed both of them. Attorney Miller claimed that the "alleged confessions" were free and voluntary.

Major Neely asked Attorney Miller if he had not asked Connutte if he would tell what he knew or whether he said: "I think you will do the right thing by him." Attorney Miller denied making these statements. He also denied remarking that co-defendant "was a man of means." Attorney Miller testified that he told Connutte that the co-defendant was trying to get a man named Frederick and another man named John Knight to try and tell the officials that he (the co-defendant) was with them that night, thereby proving an alibi.

L. B. Holbert, court stenographer, testified that he recalled the two confessions made by Connutte on September 18. He was permitted to have a written statement to fix the exact date. Mr. Holbert said when he came into the prosecuting attorney's office he heard Connutte reply: "All right it is that the way he (co-defendant) is acting then I'll make a statement." Attorney Miller denied that he had offered any immunity to Connutte or induced him to make a confession when he was recalled to the witness stand. Attorney Miller was asked by Major Neely if he had not said that the co-defendant was "a man of means." Attorney Miller said that he made the reference but it was at night, while the confessions were made earlier in the day.

Walter Connutte was recalled to give testimony as to the "alleged subsequent confessions." Connutte claimed that he made the confessions on the understanding that he would be protected. He claimed that he was told that his co-defendant had plenty of money and he was laying it on his shoulders. Connutte swore that he labored under the impression as he did at the time of the first "alleged confession." Connutte swore that if he had known he was not to receive partial immunity he certainly would not have made the confession. Prosecution Attorney W. R. Haggerty showed that he had made at least one correction to the written confession. He wanted "whistling" changed to "listening."

Prosecution Attorney Haggerty addressed the court as to the admissibility of the second confession notwithstanding that the court had ruled out the oral confession. Attorney Haggerty contended that Connutte had sufficient time to think the matter over. He contended that the second confession can go before the jury. He claimed that Connutte had seen his father two times before the second confession was made. In conclusion Prosecution Attorney Haggerty said that Connutte had sufficient time to think the confession over from September 16 to September 18. Attorney Haggerty emphasized the fact that Connutte was asked, "will you make it," and Connutte's reply was "yes, I'll make it."

Major Neely then addressed the court. He contended that the State had extorted the "alleged confession" while the accused labored under the same improper influences which were first applied. He contended that the State had failed to warn Connutte that the confession would be used against him. Major Neely submitted an Iowa case where five months had elapsed between the original and subsequent confession. That court excluded the second confession. Major Neely said he believed that additional inducements were held out to Connutte at the time or the second confession rather than none at all.

Attorney Meredith then addressed the court. He argued that the subsequent confession resulted after certain remarks of leniency had been made. Connutte confessed to Attorney Miller only, which he contended shows that he labored under the impression that he was to be benefited by immunity.

In deciding yesterday afternoon that the alleged confession of Connutte was inadmissible as evidence Judge Haymond stated that it was a difficult problem for the court to solve. At considerable length he reviewed the various facts about the arrest and confession secured as well as the general procedure of obtaining it. He told how Connutte was not permitted to see the co-defendant, with whom he had made his home, or his next kin, his father, prior to the time the confession was made. At the course of his remarks, the judge alluded to the murder as one of the most heinous crimes ever perpetrated in Marion county. He commented on the decisions on adjudicated cases and how various higher courts and those of similar courts of importance had ruled out "alleged confessions" from going into the jury box. In his ruling he commented upon the latitude of the law on the point, which depended largely upon the facts in the case.

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BLOODY FIGHTING IN ITALIAN HILLS

Austro-Germans Heavily Reinforced From the East Front.

(By Associated Press)
ITALIAN ARMY HEADQUARTERS, ITALY, Wednesday, Dec. 12.—General von Beulow's German troops have joined the Austrians and Bohemians under Field Marshal von Hoesendorf in a series of heavy assaults during the last few days between the Brenna and the Piave rivers north of Montebelluna. The fighting has been severe and has been attended with large losses, but in the main the Italian line has been sustained with only slight indentation at Montebelluna where the enemy secured a temporary foothold which is still being contested bitterly. Artillery preparations today were followed by infantry rushes with the Austrians on the right and Germans on the left. The fourth Austrian division of the right had a number of Bohemian regiments in the front line. These men are fresh from the Russo-Galician front. A desperate struggle went on around Montebelluna where the Austrians were aided by fire from batteries on the west bank of the Brenna in the position where the lines reformed last week. For some time the Beretta positions were in the hands of the enemy but a brilliant counter attack has restored nearly all the Italian positions. German reserve forces were engaged for the first time since they were used on the big Isonzo offensive. The fighting was bloody around Montebelluna and near Hill with the enemy obtaining a foothold.

FARMINGTON HAS CAMPAIGN ON

Both Tickets in Field are Out for Local Improvements.

Two tickets are in the field for the Farmington town election which will be held in January. The Peoples Improvement ticket was put in the field Monday night by citizens at a mass meeting held there and the following night the Liberty Improvement ticket was put in the field. Politics, it is said, have been eliminated from the tickets but a lively interest is already manifested and an interesting contest is predicted. The tickets are: Peoples Improvement ticket — For Mayor, W. E. Fisher; for Recorder, Chas. Swisher; Councilmen, L. L. Hupp, John Matthews, T. G. Gray, J. F. McDougal and W. H. Veach. Liberty Improvement ticket — For Mayor, W. E. Mapel; Recorder, H. L. Kuhn; Councilmen, L. L. Hupp, H. J. Hazel, W. H. Veach, J. H. Coleman and U. S. Vanzandt.

PARIS EDITOR NAMED IN BOLO PASHA CASE



Senator Charles Humbert, editor of the Paris Journal, has been indicted by a grand jury in Paris on a charge of being a confederate of Bolo Pasha, the spy.

Laborers Wanted
In Shipping Department. Apply
OWENS BOTTLE MACHINE CO.

WILLING TO CALL SPECIAL SESSION IF NECESSARY

Governor Cornwell Writes An Answer to the McKinney Article

WANTS LAW TESTED FIRST

Has Been Trying to Cope With Gas Situation in Quiet Way.

(Special to The West Virginian.)
CHARLESTON, Dec. 12.—At the office of Governor Cornwell today copies of a letter which the Governor has written to Hon. O. S. McKinney, of Fairmont, in reply to an article written by Mr. McKinney which was printed in The West Virginian of that city were given out for publication. The Governor's letter which was written Tuesday, December 11, follows: Hon. O. S. McKinney, Fairmont, West Virginia. My Dear Sir:—I have read with interest your letter to The Fairmont West Virginian a few days ago which has been widely published and commented on. Inasmuch as the question discussed is one of vital interest to the state and its people, I feel that you and they are entitled to know what I have done and what my views are as to the gas problem, hence I am giving a copy of this letter to the press for publication. The last paragraph of your letter is as follows: "If Governor Cornwell is alive to the necessity for relief from the present very serious conditions, and is anxious to further popularize himself among the people of the state he will not hesitate a day in calling a special session for action that will provide against its continuance." I am being urged to convene the Legislature and ask it to pass a law "that will compel the gas companies to furnish a sufficient amount of natural gas for the needs of the people and factories at the source of supply before transporting any out of the state." The thought of obtaining popularity or even the desire to render service to the state and its people, will not warrant me in convening the Legislature for the purpose of passing an act which, in my honest and mature judgment, would be void and ineffective because of violation of the Federal Constitution (or any clause of it) which I have taken an oath to sustain and support. I would not be honest if I did not say very frankly that, under the conditions now existing and without legal limitations imposed when the gas companies were admitted to do business in the state, I do not believe the Legislature can flatly and defiantly provide for "gas for West Virginia first," that is, enact a valid statute which will compel the gas companies to supply all the demands "of citizens and industries of this state before transporting any of it out of the state" or as a condition precedent thereto, I am morally certain such a statute would be held to be interference with interstate commerce, as has been somewhat similar statute enacted by the Oklahoma Legislature. However, I am not unmindful that when the Federal Constitution was framed the states reserved to themselves their inherent police powers and that by the Tenth Amendment of the Constitution.

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SECOND LIBERTY LOAN BONDS
Attention is called to all subscribers for the Second Liberty Loan Bonds that the third payment of 40 per cent is payable on Saturday December 15th. Banks desire prompt payment on this date.

Notice to Taxpayers Who Failed to Take Advantage of the 2 1/2% Discount.

You are now notified that December is the last month you can pay your taxes at face value. January is the month that the law compels us to add on 2 1/2% interest. I am sure you will not want to pay that amount of interest while money is so plentiful. Please be prompt and come in and pay your taxes before the rush at the last of the month. For your benefit and accommodation, the Sheriff's Office will be kept open on Saturday nights from 7 to 9 during the month of December. A. M. GLOVER, Sheriff.

SUB OFFENSIVE COMPLEMENTS LAND EFFORTS

Great Britain Not Much Impressed by Supreme Effort of Foe.

The Germans have been conducting a submarine offensive of great magnitude complimentary to their offensive on land in the hope of inclining Great Britain toward peace, but have failed signally in their naval as well as in military efforts according to a high naval authority in London.

The counter measures of the Entente naval forces reinforced by the American naval contingent are becoming increasingly successful, it is declared.

Recently the production of new tonnage has nearly equaled the tonnage sunk and the destruction of the submarine has reached a point closely approaching the minimum capacity of the Germans for turning out U-boats.

Detailed descriptions today of the fighting in interior of Russia conflict with previous reports of a decided Bolshevik success at the defeat of General Korniloff one of the main stays of the anti Bolshevik campaign.

General Korniloff according to this account divided his troops when the Bolshevik forces were encountered near Brelgorod in south central Russia, and while the Bolsheviks were following up one section the main Korniloff force attacked with artillery and virtually wiped out the Bolshevik detachment.

J. Ellis Merrifield Buried at Woodlawn

Funeral services over the body of J. Ellis Merrifield whose death occurred on Tuesday were held this afternoon at 2:30 o'clock from his home on Cleveland avenue. Rev. C. E. Goodwin of the First M. E. church, conducted the services in the absence of the pastor of the deceased, Dr. J. C. Broomfield. Members of Meade Post No. 6, G. A. R., attended the services in a body, the deceased having been a prominent member. The body was interred in Woodlawn Cemetery.

GOV. COX AND FUEL CHIEF SQUARELY AT OPPOSITION

Garfield Declares Railroads Will Not Obey Orders From Governor.

COLUMBUS, Dec. 12.—Work of confiscating from the railroads coal consigned northwest to alleviate suffering in Ohio, caused by the coal shortage in this state was being continued today by state authorities under direction and orders of Governor James M. Cox.

The State fuel administration today prepared a list of Ohio cities and towns suffering from a lack of coal and announced that coal on hand would be apportioned immediately among them. This coal has been confiscated from railroad shipments to the northwest.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—Fuel administration officials construing the action of Governor Cox, of Ohio, to be unwarranted and sure to disarrange the fuel administration of the states, announced today that the railroads were working in harmony with the Federal fuel administration representatives and would not carry out their Governor's orders.

Fuel Administrator Garfield in a telegram to Governor Cox insisted he should not interfere and assured the governor of prompt action to care for Ohio's needs.

Odd Fellows Big Meeting Here

Big doings are expected at the Odd Fellows' booster meeting on Saturday evening in Odd Fellows hall. Between 200 and 300 members are expected to attend. Marion Lodge No. 11 and Palatine Lodge No. 84, have committees at work arranging for the entertainment of members.

The Grand Lodge Degree will be conferred upon past grands at 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

Man That Bosses His Own Boss

One man in Marion county is boss of his boss. This is rather an unusual circumstance. When W. E. Michaels is teaching at Fairview District Superintendent W. E. Tomblin is his superior, but when Mr. Michaels is acting county superintendent of schools he is Mr. Tomblin's superior.